

Message Text

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S E C R E T CAIRO 8944

NODIS/CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SADAT AND
SADAT'S COMMENTS

REF STATE 214854

1. I HAD ABOUT AN HOUR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT
AT 2100 LOCAL THIS EVENING (WEDNESDAY) AT HIS PYRAMIDS
REST HOUSE. ALSO PRESENT WERE VP MOBAREK AND DEPUTY PRIMIN/FONMIN
FAHMY. ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE STRAIN FROM
RAMADHAN FASTING AND THE CURRENT ATTACKS ON EGYPT, HE
WAS QUITE RELAXED.

2. I FIRST GAVE HIM PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE AND, AS I
USUALLY DO WITH SUCH LETTERS, ALSO READ IT TO HIM. HE LISTENED
ATTENTIVELY, OBVIOUSLY LIKED THE TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF
THE MESSAGE, AND NODDED APPROVINGLY SEVERAL TIMES. WHEN
I HAD FINISHED, HE ASKED THAT I CONVEY HIS THANKS AND
GRATITUDE TO PRESIDENT FORD FOR THE LETTER. HE WOULD IN
DUE COURSE SEND A WRITTEN REPLY. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER,
HE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE SEVERAL POINTS, WHICH HE
ASKED THAT I CONVEY TO PRESIDENT FORD THROUGH
SECRETARY KISSINGER. SPECIFICALLY,

A. AS HE HAD ANTICIPATED, THE SOVIETS HAVE
BECOME "FURIOUS" BECAUSE "OUR AGREEMENT" ON THE AMERICAN
POSTS MEANS THEY HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE AREA. AS

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A RESULT, THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO INCITE THE
SITUATION IN SYRIA, AMONG THE PALESTINIANS AND IN
LEBANON. THESE SOVIET ACTIVITIES ARE DIRECTED

AGAINST HIM. HE WISHED PRESIDENT FORD TO KNOW THAT, WHATEVER HAPPENS, HE CAN DEAL WITH THE SITUATION IN THE ARAB WORLD. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT EXCLUDES THE SOVIETS FROM THE AREA PLACES A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ON THE USG AND ON PRESIDENT FORD WHICH HE WAS SURE PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER APPRECIATE. WHEN HE WAS ATTACKED BY THE SYRIANS AND THE PALESTINIANS, HE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO "EXPOSE" THE SOVIETS BEFORE THE ARAB WORLD. HE HAD DONE SO AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. THE CURRENT CONFRONTATION IS BETWEEN HIM AND THE SOVIETS, NOT BETWEEN HIM AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES. WE MUST THINK OF ALL THE CONSEQUENCES. THE USG SHOULD TAKE THE MATTER SERIOUSLY. IT IMPOSES CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS ON THE USG. HE WAS NOT SEEKING FOR BACKING IN THE ARAB WORLD, SINCE THIS IS SOMETHING HE COULD MANAGE. HE WOULD PROBABLY FIND HIMSELF IN DIFFICULTY WITH THE SOVIETS, HOWEVER, WITH RESPECT TO ARMS, INDUSTRIAL HELP, ETC. WE SHOULD TAKE THIS VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR INTO ACCOUNT.

B. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE USG URGE SOME RESTRAINT ON CERTAIN ISRAELI ACTIONS, SUCH AS WANTING TO SEND CARGOES THROUGH THE CANAL AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME. PRESIDENT SADAT SAID HE HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THIS, BUT THE ISRAELIS SHOULD NOT PRESS THIS MATTER AT THIS MOMENT WHEN HE IS HAVING HIS TROUBLES IN THE ARAB WORLD. THIS WILL ONLY COMPLICATE THE SITUATION. HE WAS NOT SAYING THIS TO RENEGE ON HIS COMMITMENT, BUT SOME ISRAELI RESTRAINT IS NEEDED TO ENABLE HIM TO GET THROUGH THE PRESENT SITUATION.

C. SOME HARD TALKING IS ALSO NECESSARY WITH THE SOVIETS. WHATEVER HAPPENS, HE WOULD CONTINUE TO DEFEND WHAT HE BELIEVES IN. THE 38 MILLION EGYPTIAN PEOPLE ARE BEHIND HIM. THE ARMED FORCES HAD AGAIN MADE CLEAR YESTERDAY THAT THEY ARE "100 PERCENT" BEHIND HIM. THE ARMY IS PLEASED ABOUT THE AGREEMENT, BUT AT YESTERDAY'S SUPREME ARMY COUNCIL MEETING HAD RAISED WITH HIM THE
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PROBLEM OF ARMAMENTS. HE DID NOT WISH TO DISCUSS DETAILS AT THE MOMENT, BUT WANTED TO PUT THIS MATTER BEFORE PRESIDENT FORD TO CONSIDER PRIOR TO HIS VISIT AND TO ENABLE HIM TO PREPARE THE CONGRESS AND THE PENTAGON.

3. IN CONCLUSION, PRESIDENT SADAT SAID HE WISHED TO ASSURE PRESIDENT FORD THAT HE WILL CONTINUE HIS POLICY AND FULFILL EVERYTHING WE HAVE AGREED UPON. IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME IN THE ARAB WORLD TO OVERCOME THE PRESENT OUTCRY, BUT HE RECALLED EGYPT HAD WEATHERED SUCH STORMS BEFORE, E.G. WHEN NASSAR ACCEPTED THE

ROGERS PLAN AND AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST
DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. HE WOULD MANAGE THIS.

4. THE PRESIDENT ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS THANKS FOR
PRESIDENT FORD'S INVITATION AND ACCEPTED THE OCTOBER 28
DATE IN PRINCIPLE. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FAHMY COULD
DISCUSS DETAILS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER LATER THIS
MONTHS WHEN FAHMY GOES TO THE UNGA SESSION.
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